

**AGENDA ITEM 5:            Receive Executive Director report – May 22, 2014**

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Erik Vink

Requested Action: **None**

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**Executive Director Report  
May 22, 2014**

**Program and Project Update**

**1. Delta Heritage Area Initiative (DelHAI):**

- The Holland Union Gakuen (Clarksburg Japanese Language School) vision workshop will be held on May 30; DPC received grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the State Office of Historic Preservation for this effort. The goal of the workshop (or “charrette”) is to advance the planning for the preservation of the Gakuen. The public is welcome to attend, although the attendance is at capacity; if any Commissioners wish to attend, please RSVP to DPC by May 23.
- Pursuant to the Delta Plan's Delta as Place Recommendation 3 (“DP R3”), DPC is developing a pilot program to help interested communities develop Action Plans promoting economic vitality, while preserving the communities' unique senses of place. More details should be available by July.
- The update of DPC’s Recreation Inventory is progressing with contracted assistance from California State Department of Parks and Recreation, and input from staff of the Delta Conservancy. Staff anticipates surveying recreation providers at the end of summer, so as to include an additional peak recreation season. For the first time, the survey will seek to include agritourism providers in addition to wineries and other traditional recreation providers.
- Staff continue progress on the Abandoned Vessels Working Group, the Delta Trail Eastern Region Blueprint, and a Delta oral history project, and expect to provide significant updates at a DPC meeting this summer.

**2. Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District/DSC Levee Prioritization:** As reported at the last meeting, DPC and DWR have executed the contract for the Assessment District study; we anticipate issuing a request-for-proposal shortly. Since the last DPC meeting, the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) selected a team led by the Arcadis firm as its consultant for the levee prioritization effort. DPC, DWR and DSC staff have met on several occasions to coordinate the two efforts, and will continue to meet regularly as the two efforts proceed.

**3. Delta Stewardship Council Implementation Committee:** The first DSC Implementation Committee meeting was held on April 9 in Sacramento. DPC is represented on this

committee by Vice-Chair Piepho, who reported on recent efforts related to a Delta aquatic weeds research effort. Levees, habitat, financing, and science were generally identified as primary focus issues. Committee members agreed to identify and direct key staff people to report back on progress at a subsequent meeting in November of this year. Subject-specific subcommittees are also expected to form, to include a Delta as Place Subcommittee.

4. **DWR Emergency Drought Barriers:** Following the presentation and discussion at the March 27 DPC meeting, DPC staff have continued to monitor efforts related to the installation of emergency drought barriers in the Delta. This included commenting on the permit required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (see attached letter). As of May 12, DWR reported that they do not believe they will install any emergency drought barriers this year, although they are still considering installation of barriers in three locations (West False River, Steamboat Slough and Sutter Slough; the West False River barrier is the most likely of the three to be installed). If DWR does proceed with any of these barriers, initial construction would occur no earlier than July 15.

#### Administrative Update

1. **DPC Staffing:** DPC is sad to report that Associate Environmental Planner Alex Westhoff left DPC to accept a position with the Marin County Planning Department, beginning April 28; we wish him well. At the same time, we are excited to announce that Nicole Darracq Bert joined us as our new communications specialist on May 19. DPC is also seeking applications for both an Associate Environmental Planner (to replace Alex Westhoff) and a Delta Program Manager I (to staff the levee assessment district project, LURMP update and ESP update, among other responsibilities). The application deadline for both of these positions is in late May and we expect to make hiring decisions in the coming weeks. Filling these last two vacancies will bring DPC to full staffing.
2. **DPC Strategic Plan:** At its last meeting, the Commission voted on the proposed mission statement, with a majority supporting the following mission statement:

*Committed to the Protection and Health of the Delta.*

*We protect, maintain, enhance and restore the overall quality of the Delta environment. We do this with a focus on agriculture, recreation, and natural resources, while remaining mindful of the importance of the Delta to all Californians.*

This mission statement will be inserted into the draft DPC Strategic Plan 2020. The mission statement and other iterative components of the plan are considered to be in draft form until the complete draft strategic plan comes before the Commission for final approval. We still expect that to occur in the fall of this year.

Staff committed to seeking input from Commissioners on strategic plan goals and objectives in advance of the May 22 meeting. However, due to staffing changes and other pressing deadlines, that effort has been delayed. Staff expect to move forward in the next several weeks.

3. **Delta Conservancy Liaison Advisor:** The Delta Conservancy legislation provides for liaison advisors to serve in an advisory, nonvoting capacity; one of these liaison advisor slots is designated for the Delta Protection Commission (Public Resources Code Section 32330(c)(10)). Mark Wilson of Clarksburg has been serving as the DPC liaison advisor and recently indicated his intention to step down from that role in advance of the next DC meeting (May 28). I'll be representing DPC as the interim liaison advisor until the Commission appoints a new one; I'll bring this back before the Commission later in the year.
4. **FPPC Conflict of Interest Code and Public Records Act Policy Updates:** DPC is revising its conflict of interest code, governing who must complete Fair Political Practices Commission filings and what these filings should cover. We now anticipate these will be considered at a DPC meeting later this year. Similarly, we are updating our Public Records Act Policy and will bring this to the Commission for consideration later in the year.

#### **Upcoming Delta Events**

- DPC was a sponsor for Sacramento Creek Week, April 4-12.
- May 17-23 is National Safe Boating week.
- The Isleton Cajun and Blues Festival is June 14-15.
- Next DPC meeting is July 24 in Clarksburg.